

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



CHIEF JEFFREY J. O'BRIEN

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

ADMINISTRATION

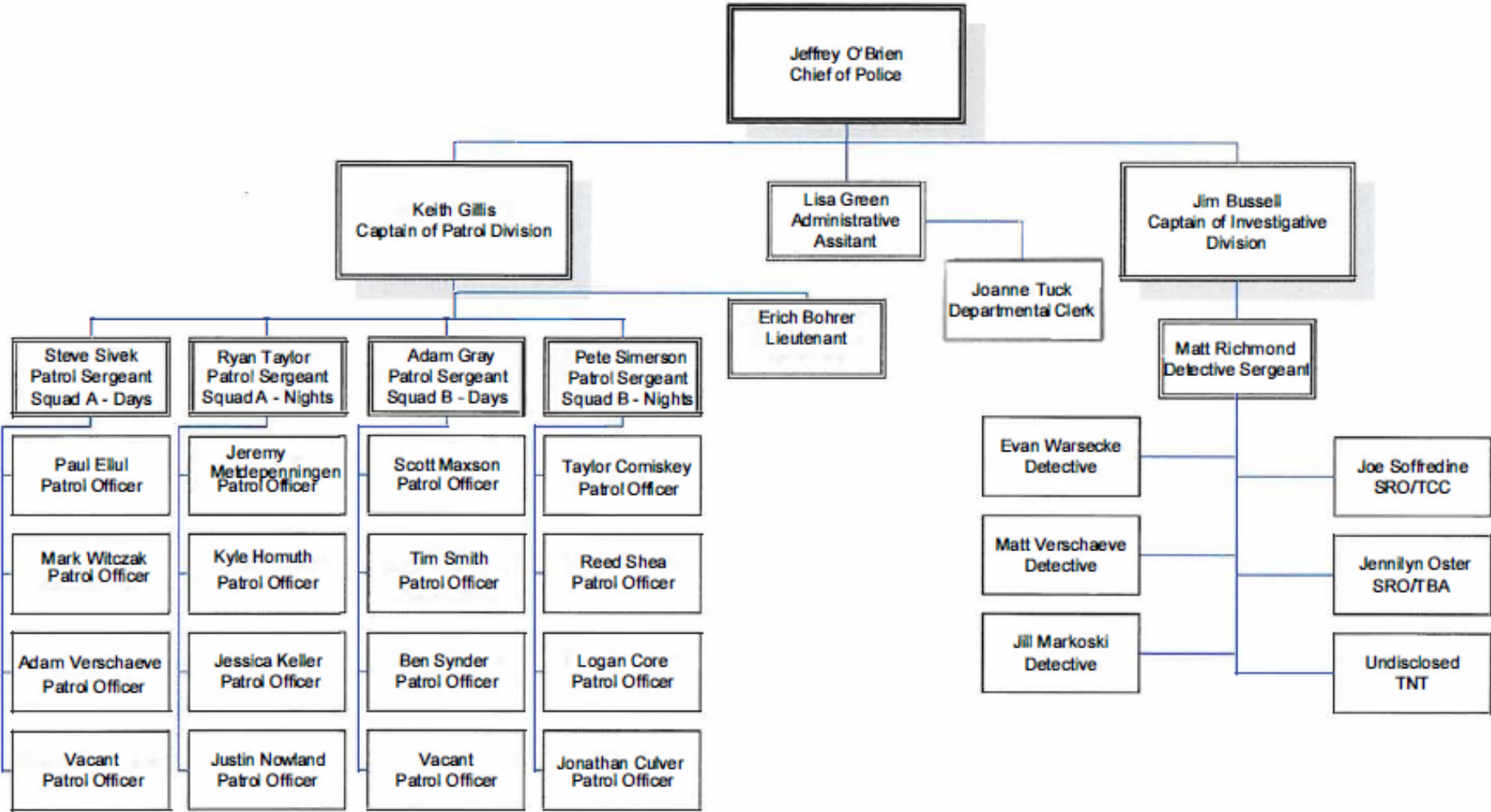
The office of the Chief of Police is comprised of the department's command staff along with civilian support personnel. The sworn officers are: Jeffrey J. O'Brien, Chief of Police; James A. Bussell, Captain - Investigative Division; Keith L. Gillis, Captain - Patrol Division; and Erich T. Bohrer, Lieutenant - Patrol Division. The support personnel include Lisa D. Green, Chief's Administrative Assistant and Joanne E. Tuck, Administrative Clerk/Evidence.



The Chief's office is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the department. This includes community outreach through Community Policing principles, preparing and maintaining the annual budget, purchasing, department training, payroll, school crossing guards, the annual National Police Memorial Day ceremony and blood drive, liquor licensing of establishments within the City and annual review of same as well as special use liquor licensing for special events, Freedom of Information, and all matters associated with the goals and objectives mandated by the Chief of Police. The Chief's office works closely with outside community agencies on matters of civil concern specifically homelessness and dependencies related to drugs and alcohol. The Chief and the Captains serve on boards related to such matters. In addition, the Chief's office works closely with City Departments on matters of public concern and in partnership with achieving goals set forth by the City Commission through the City Manager. The partnerships we nurture, and are committed to, both inside and outside the organization are imperative to our Department's success. We are proud to serve the City of Traverse City and its citizens.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

JANUARY 2019



PATROL SERVICE AREAS



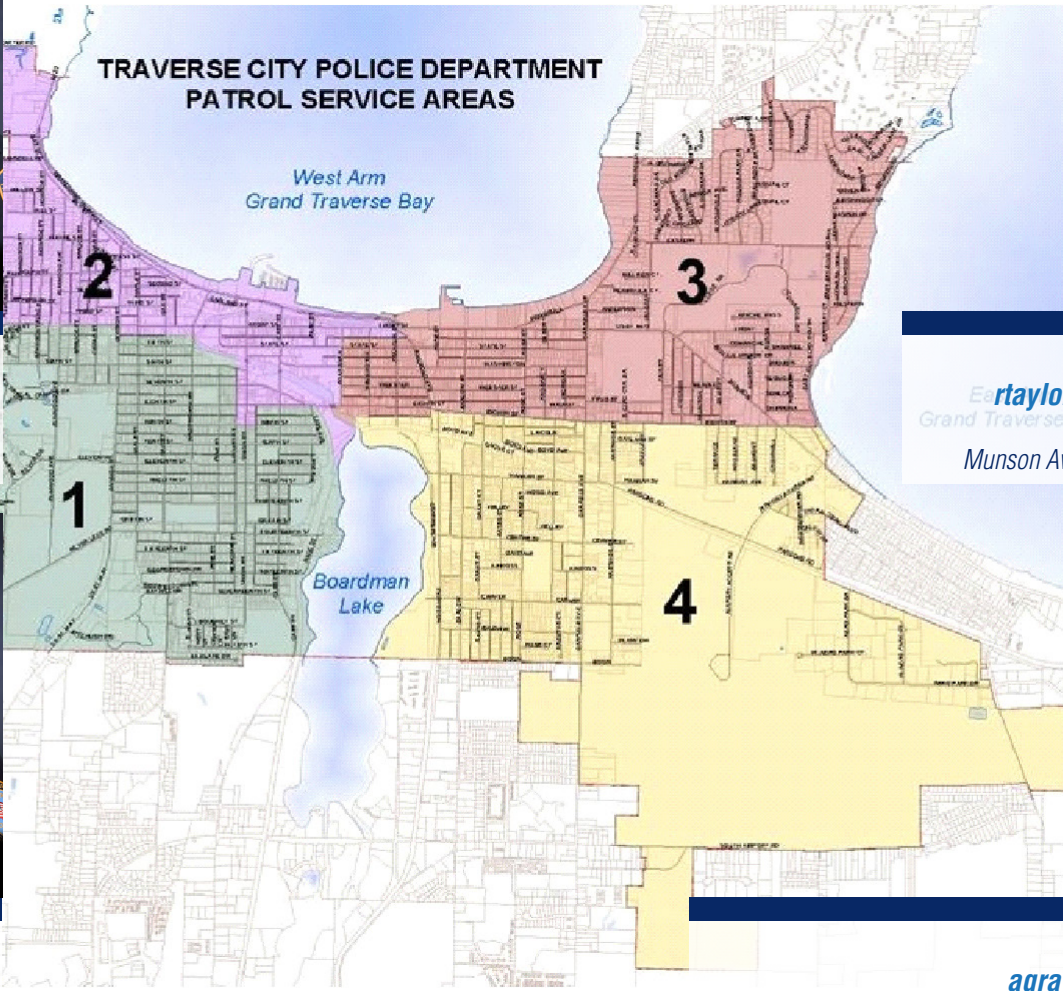
Peter K. Simerson
Sergeant
2014

SERVICE AREA 2
psimerson@traversecitymi.gov
DDA, Slab Town,
Gov't Center Complex, Greilickville



Steven R. Sivek
Sergeant
2001

SERVICE AREA 1
ssivek@traversecitymi.gov
Central, Kids Creek, Old Towne,
Munson Medical Center, Grand Traverse Commons



Ryan C. Taylor
Sergeant
2004

SERVICE AREA 3
rtaylor@traversecitymi.gov
Boardman, Oak Park, NMC,
Munson Ave Corridor, 8th St. Corridor



Adam M. Gray
Sergeant
2014

SERVICE AREA 4
agray@traversecitymi.gov
Traverse Heights, CCA, Industrial Park, Railroad Depot Development,
Hull Park, U.S. Coast Guard Airbase, U.S. Army Reserve Center

PATROL SERVICES DIVISION

2018 RECAP

In 2018 the Traverse City Police Department implemented several community policing programs. We anticipate continued success as the Traverse City Police Department and its many partnerships with local organizations grow and through continuous discussions and evaluations as to the benefits to each community. It is my pleasure to list the following organizations who partnered with the Traverse City Police Department. I expect our partnerships and programs to continue to grow.

- Safe Kids North Shore
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Operation Chill (7-11)
- Norte
- Safe Harbor
- Michigan State Police
- Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department
- 86th District Court Community Outreach

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Expanded and enriched our Community Policing Program
- Guardian Tracker Management Program
- National Walk to School Day
- Park and Walk
- Neighborhood Meetings
- Officer Liaison Program at Safe Harbor
- Officer Liaison Program at City Library
- Seasonal Bike Officers
- Bicycle Safety Program
- Sobriety Court
- Drug Court
- Traffic Committee
- Firearms Program
- K9 Program
- Interdiction Team
- Motor Cycle Unit
- Field Training Program
- Emergency Response Team
- Honor Guard
- Training

CAPTAIN - KEITH GILLIS



Captain Gillis is responsible for staff operating reports and recommendations for changes in policy through policy review. He assists in budget preparation, its monitoring and evaluation, purchasing and other related fiscal matters. He performs personnel management functions to include recruiting, selection and discipline.

USE OF FORCE 2018

The Traverse City Police Department documents and tracks every incidence of force applied by an officer to verify justification, proper application, contributing factors and to plan future training needs. In 2018, officers of the department were involved in 29 “use of force” incidents. Keep in mind, more than one officer is sometimes involved, and more than one type of force may be applied during an incident. Case law guiding law enforcement use of force requires it be “objectively and reasonably” applied based on the facts and circumstances facing the officer at the time the force was applied. (Graham vs. Connor 490 U.S. 386 (1989)). In 2018 we show an increase in two areas: Hard Empty Hand Control, strikes and takedowns, almost all of which were takedowns to prevent further escalation.

EMPTY HAND CONTROL: 29 | TASER UPHOLSTERED: 4 | TASER DEPLOYED: 0 | FIREARM: 0

CALLS FOR SERVICE STATISTICS

LT. ERICH BOHRER

Traverse City Police Department Calls for Service Statistics

2018 YTD

Day of Week	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	TOTAL					
	4,177	4,372	4,209	4,432	4,471	3,942	3,124	28,727					
Hour of Day	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	960	749	713	597	452	321	392	737	1,062	1,315	1,430	1,493	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	1,620	1,615	1,774	1,785	1,663	1,404	1,577	1,642	1,474	1,438	1,451	1,063	
Location	Citations	Traffic Crashes			Arrests		*Other	Criminal	Non-Criminal	Traffic Crashes	Total		
		Fatal	PIA	PDA	OWI	Criminal							
SW1	221	1	24	238	15	95	1,764	803	1,521	263	4,351		
NW2	341	0	32	396	21	300	8,816	1,914	2,732	428	13,890		
NE3	426	0	31	246	16	115	2,147	902	1,140	277	4,466		
SE4	183	0	15	156	13	131	2,855	1,032	1,962	171	6,020		
Totals	1,171	1	102	1,036	65	641	15,582	4,651	7,355	1,139	28,727		

*Other Calls for Service Include: 911 Hangups; BOL; Follow-up to Complaints; Motorist Assists; Public Relations; Serving Legal Papers; Traffic Stops; Warrant Attempts
As of 1/01/18, MIP alcohol citations are civil infractions, therefore no arrest is applicable.
Ticket stats are based on what District Court has entered as of 1/04/19.
Arrest stats are as of 1/06/19.



Lt. Erich Bohrer oversees the Road Services Division. His responsibilities include supervising: Patrol Sergeants, Patrol/Community Police Officers, Motor Unit, K-9, Honor Guard, Reserve Officers.

INVESTIGATION SERVICES DIVISION

The Investigative Division consists of the Division Captain, one Detective Sergeant, three Detectives, two School Resource Officers, one Narcotics Officer, four Crime Scene Technicians and one civilian assigned to the management of the property and evidence section. The chain of command is Detective Captain, Detective Sergeant and then all other sworn Division personnel as peers on a seniority basis reporting directly to the D/Sergeant.

Detectives have crime scene and investigative case authority over senior Patrol Officers and Road Sergeants once assigned. Currently, the “Crimes Against Persons” Detective is the most senior Detective. Several Detectives are trained in multiple disciplines and responsibilities both inside and outside the Investigative Division. The Division consists of several Bureaus, Units and Sections. Each has its own assigned personnel and responsibility. Because of the size of our agency, it is necessary that personnel be assigned to several areas within and in some cases outside of the Division.

DETECTIVE BUREAU

DETECTIVE CAPTAIN

CAPTAIN JIM BUSSELL, BADGE #202

Major Investigations

FOIA

Media Relations

Case Review

PAO Liaison

LARA – LCC Investigation Compliance

Internal Audits and Inspections

Policy and Procedure review, development and research

Division Training Coordination and Selection

Captain Bussell was promoted to D/Sgt. in 2013 and D/Captain in 2015.
He continues to serve as the Investigative Division Commander.



James A. Bussell
Captain
1997

DETECTIVES BUREAU STATISTICS

Case Status					
Year	Total Closed	Percent Closed	Total Open	Percent Open	Total Cases
2015	131	95.62%	6	4.38%	137
2016	100	80.00%	25	20.00%	125 (-8.75%)
2017	200	88.11%	27	11.89%	227 (80.80%)
2018	172	89.58%	20	10.42%	192 (-15.41%)

Year	Case Offense Crimes	Referred from Patrol Division	Returned to Patrol for Investigation
2015	156	72	11
2016	144 (-7.69%)	108 (50%)	7
2017	256 (77.77%)	77 (-28%)	7
2018	200 (-21.87%)	80 (4%)	2

INVESTIGATION SERVICES DIVISION

DETECTIVE SERGEANT

D/SGT. MATT RICHMOND, BADGE #211

Major Investigations, Case/Detective Assignment, Case/Detective Management, Scheduling, Payroll and OT management, DV Coalition/WRC Liaison, DV Case Review

D/Sgt. Richmond was promoted in October of 2018 from road patrol Sergeant to Detective Sergeant. Prior to that Lt. Bohrer had served in that position until his promotion to Lieutenant in July of 2018. D/Sgt. Richmond's previous assignment as road patrol Sergeant had been since November of 2015; prior to that he had been assigned as a Detective effective September 2012. His primary duty and mission is the effective management of the Detectives, case assignment and case review. He also has the ability to work cases himself as he deems necessary because of caseloads and need.

In the few months of 2018 that he was assigned to the Investigative Division he assigned himself two cases, one Aggravated Assault and one Domestic Violence Assault. D/Sgt. Richmond also manages the department's physical maintenance program and Naloxone program.



DETECTIVE- CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

DETECTIVE EVAN WARSECKE, BADGE #294

*Major Assaultive Crimes, Armed Robbery, Weapons Violations
CSC Investigations*

Child Advocacy Center Liaison

Child Forensic Interviewer

Department of Human Services Referrals – Children

Human Trafficking Investigations

48 - Cases Investigated

2 - Death Investigations, 1 - Arson, 23 - CSC complaints, 16 - CPS/APS Referrals



DETECTIVE - FINANCIAL AND COMPUTER CRIMES

DETECTIVE MATT VERSCHAEVE, BADGE #292

*Fraud, Embezzlement, Counterfeiting Investigations, All Computer crimes, Social Media Investigations and Crimes
Computer and Cellular Devices Forensic Examinations, Child Forensic Interviewer*

Department of Human Services Referrals – Vulnerable Adults

Traverse Area Security Officers Association (Financial Institutions)

Bureau audio, video, computer and surveillance equipment research, management and technical support

UAS (Drone) development and implementation

28 - Cases Investigated + 41 Cases Investigated through ICAC

*9 – Fraud, 2 – Embezzlements, 3 – APS Referrals, Bomb Threat, Retail Fraud, Missing Person, Overdose Death,
VCSA, CPS Referral, Fatal Fire, CSAM and Employment Background*



DETECTIVE- PROPERTY CRIMES

JILL MARKOSKI, BADGE #293

Burglary, Larceny, MDOP and UDAA Investigations

Liquor Control, Child Forensic Interviewer

Employment Background Investigations (TCPD, TCFD, GTCD and as requested by City Departments)

Hostage Negotiation, Pawn Transactions

Precious Metal Dealer Licensing

Assist with Human Trafficking Investigations

45 – Cases Investigated + 17 MLCC Investigations

*8 - Larcenies, 12 - Breaking and Entering, 3 - CPS Referrals, 2 - APS Referrals, 2 - Frauds, Suspicious Fire, Assault,
Ordinance Violation, RAW/Missing, Harassment, Bond Violation and Employment Background*



INVESTIGATION SERVICES DIVISION

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER UNIT

TCCHS SRO

OFFICER JOE SOFFREDINE

One School Resource Officer is assigned to Traverse City Central High School to investigate school and juvenile related crimes and incidents. This School Resource Officer also assists at all other TCAPS schools and facilities within the City limits. The position is fully funded by departmental budget. Among many other responsibilities, SRO Soffredine investigated 97 calls for service in 2018 including Assault, Suicide Attempt, CSC, MDOP, Stalking, VCSA and Fraud. SRO Soffredine also routinely takes overflow DB cases as requested and some of his cases are indicated in the general DB section key cases. SRO Soffredine has also been instrumental in the ongoing Kelly Boyce-Hulbert homicide investigation.

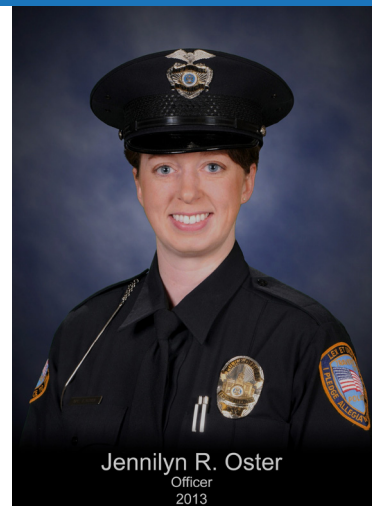


BADGE #232

TBA/ISD SRO

OFFICER JENNILYN OSTER

One School Resource Officer is assigned to TBA/ISD to investigate school and juvenile related crimes and incidents. TBA/ISD maintains four campuses within the City. They consist of the main campus on Parsons Rd., New Campus in the Commons property, Oak Park Elementary and Traverse Heights Elementary. The position is fully funded by TBA/ISD through a contractual agreement. School Resource Officer Oster participated in 87 public relations events in 2017. In 2018 she participated in 214 events. She posted 524 calls for service in 2018 with 48 new investigations opened. Investigations include 28 Assaults, CSC, Larceny, MDOP, Suicide Attempts and Weapons. She also spends countless hours working with the TBA/ISD public safety program, students and instructors.



BADGE #239

TRAVERSE NARCOTICS TEAM

The Traverse Narcotics Team (TNT) is a multijurisdictional drug task force comprised of officers from Wexford County, Osceola County, Missaukee County, Antrim County, Grand Traverse County, Kalkaska County, Leelanau County, and Benzie County along with Traverse City Police Department, and the Michigan State Police. The Traverse Narcotics Team needs help from the public to eradicate the illegal drug epidemic in Michigan and asks that anyone with any information pertaining to illegal drug activity call the drug tip line at: 800-528-8234. Captain Bussell has served on the executive board since 2015. TNT Detectives are divided into two teams, a north team and south team. A Narcotics Detective is assigned full time to the north team. In 2018 the north team investigated a total of 131 complaints. Of those investigations, 72 occurred in Grand Traverse County. The detective receives extensive training in activities related to narcotics and vice lawenforcement to include Gang Investigation, surveillance, building entry and basic and advanced narcotics investigation. Investigations included: Narcotics, Prostitution and Parcel and Bus Interdiction

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION UNIT

TEAM MANAGER

OFFICER TIM SMITH, BADGE #227

The Unit consists of four full time Police Officers trained in processing crime scenes, collection of evidence and the analysis of evidence. In 2018 the CSI unit was called to a wide range of complaints such as; Homicide, Attempted Homicide, Suspicious Death's, Suicides, Attempted Suicides, Drowning, Drug over doses resulting in death, Criminal Sexual Conduct cases, Felonious Assault and Battery Complaints, Home Invasions, Breaking and Entering's, Stolen Vehicle recovery, Larceny from auto's (LFA), Weapons complaints.

2018 Cases:
Crime Scenes Processed: 28
Complaints Processed in the CLAB: 37
Items Seized by Evidence Techs: 94
Items Processed by Evidence Techs: 118
AFIS Hits: 1



PROPERTY EVIDENCE SECTION

PROPERTY/EVIDENCE TECH

MS. JOANNE TUCK

Ms. Joanne Tuck is a civilian employee assigned as our Property and Evidence Section Technician. She is responsible for the management, coalition, and storage of evidence in the property room to include the transfer of property between citizens, officers, the PAO and the MSP Laboratory.

In 2018 there were eighty-eight (88) guns "surplussed", posted on our website and disposed of. Six (6) were retained for department use, thirteen (13) destroyed, and sixty-nine (69) sold to authorized firearms dealers.

Our Departments lobby drug turn in POD has collected **3069 pounds of drugs**.



INVESTIGATION SERVICES DIVISION

DIVISION COMMUNITY RELATIONS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COURT

D/Sgt Richmond is assigned as a liaison to the COC. In early 2018 the department partnered with the 86th District Court in the development and operation of the Community Outreach Court program. The Grand Traverse County Community Outreach Court (COC) offers individuals who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness (struggling to pay rent and daily necessities) the opportunity to resolve unpaid court fines, fees, bench warrants, and open cases for civil and criminal infractions when they complete an action plan designed to address the root causes of their homelessness or risk of homelessness and criminal history.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION

D/Sgt Richmond is assigned to the Grand Traverse County Domestic Violence Coalition and attends meetings monthly with an interdisciplinary group consisting of Judges, Court Officials, Prosecuting Attorney's Office Representatives, Victim's Rights Advocates, Women's Resource Center, other police agencies and a variety of other social service representatives. The Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center will be added to this group in 2019. These meetings focus on prevention and enforcement issues, concerns and problems as they relate to the crime of domestic violence and family justice in the Grand Traverse Region.

FAMILY ASSESSMENT & SAFETY TEAM (FAST TEAM)

SRO Soffredine is a member of the FAST Team. The goal is to reduce the number of children that end up in the Hospital Emergency room as a result of a mental health crisis.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY DRUG FREE COALITION

SRO Soffredine is assigned to the Coalition and is a member of the Executive Board. The Coalition has several community members from varied disciplines to include health, addiction and abuse prevention, treatment, Schools and Law Enforcement and meets once a month to develop and implement ideas concerning the education of High School and Middle School students concerning the danger of drug abuse.

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE

Detective Verscheave is assigned to this Multijurisdictional team managed by the Michigan State Police. The team is located in Traverse City and assists with investigations by police agencies with child computer sex crime cases. Police agencies submitting investigative assist requests are within the MSP 7th and 8th Districts comprising of all of northern-lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

TRAVERSE BAY CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Detective Warsecke attends monthly peer review and case review meetings at the TBCAC and D/Capt. Bussell sits on the board of director's. The TBCAC is instrumental in the prevention, detection and prosecution of sexual assault crimes against children in the Traverse City region.

UAS PROGRAM (Unmanned Arial Systems/Drone)

Detective Verscheave is the program Coordinator. In early 2018, 4 UAS (Drone) pilots were selected by the TCPD Administration. 2019 goals of the UAS program include equipment that is capable of night time operation, both discreet and illuminated, as well as UAS equipment that is capable of flight in rain/wet conditions. Both of these goals will also require additional narrative waiver applications to the FAA.

DIVISION SECURITY DETAILS

TCPD is consistently requested throughout the year to assist in security planning and operations for high risk individuals and high risk events that are common place within the City. Typically these operations consist of plain clothes officers from the Investigative Division but may include uniform personnel. 2018 events include security for local, state and federal politicians and political candidates as well as notable celebrities during events such as the National Cherry Festival and the Traverse City Film Festival.

DIVISION GOALS

CONTINUATION OF UAS (DRONE) PROGRAM

Research began in late 2017 for the training and equipment acquisition of a TCPD Drone program. The program kicked off and was implemented in 2018. Licensing and certification continues as well as the research and purchasing of an additional UAV.

EXPANSION OF CRIME ANALYSIS BEYOND CRIME MAPPING INTO COMP STAT AND COMMUNITY POLICING STRATEGIES

We continue exploring systems and methods compatible with our current record keeping system which received a major update in January of 2019. The Crime Mapping system implemented in 2016 has experienced software and compatibility issues with our records system. The program is still of value and the compatibility issue should be resolved soon. We are also researching the viability of working directly with the City GIS department as opposed to Crime Mapping. This program could be used in conjunction with the data D/Sgt. Richmond is generating to further clarify preventative and enforcement actions.

GUARDIANTRACKING AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The department implemented the document management and storage system in 2018. Throughout the year the Division has created forms for tracking varied activities. This will enable us to more efficiently manage cases and generate statistical data to track progress. These forms will also replace old data bases and spreadsheets that have been developed over the years and incorporate a more standardized (accurate) and cloud based (efficient/secure) method.

HOMEGROWN COPS

As a part of the initiative, SRO's are exploring the implementation of a joint training program including senior high school students with an interest in local law enforcement, community members interested in becoming police reserves and certified police officers hired seasonally by the department. Another initiative being explored is the creation of the police cadet position and the hiring of qualified college students who are attending a local law enforcement academy. They would primarily assist officers and administrators through the summer months in house while they learn about TCPD, police work and build their resume. The end goal is interested and qualified applicants eventually being hired as full time police officers Traverse City PD.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SOLVABILITY FACTORS IN THE DETERMINATION OF DB CASE ACCEPTANCE AND ASSIGNMENT.

This remains a goal of the division. In 2017 it was learned that our current report software system does have a module that supports this feature although it had not been activated.

PERFORMANCE APPRAISALS, JOB DESCRIPTIONS BY FUNCTION, AND DIVISION VISION AND MISSION DEVELOPMENT

We are currently researching the development of this in conjunction with Division Personnel.

STATISTICS

28,727

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

877

ARRESTS

88

VIOLENT CRIMES

The calls that our officers are dispatched to are logged via file class (which there are hundreds). Those files classes can be grouped together into more broad categories which can then be effectively presented to the public. The categories that the Traverse City Police Department chooses to use are: Other, Criminal, Non-Criminal and Traffic Crashes.

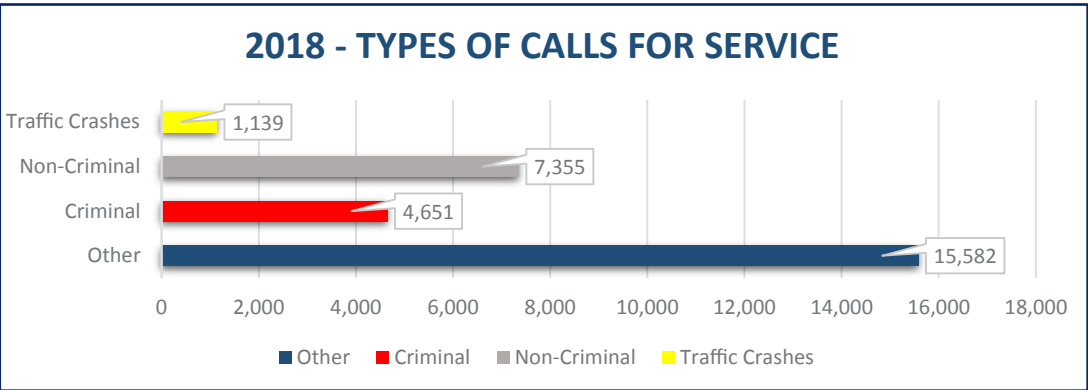
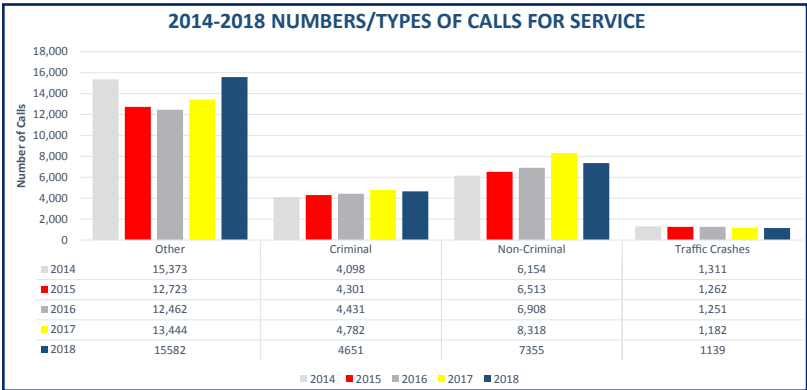
OTHER:
Includes 911 hang-ups, Be On the Lookout (BOL), Follow-up Complaints, Motorist Assists, Public Relations, Paper Service, Traffic Stops and Warrant Attempts.

CRIMINAL:
Includes all crimes with a file class below 77000. Examples are Murder, Criminal Sexual Conduct (CSC), Assaults, Malicious Destruction of Property (MDOP), Breaking and Entering (B&E), Robbery (Armed and unarmed), Fraud, Unlawful Driving Away of an Automobile (UDAA), Disorderly Conduct, Weapons Offenses, Drugs, Traffic Violations (Misdemeanor/Felony), Larcenies, Trespassing and Liquor Violations.

NON-CRIMINAL:
Includes all crimes with a file class above 77000. Examples are Insanity, Civil Matters, Runaways, Suspicious Situations, Lost and Found, Drug Overdoses, Suicide, Natural Death, Missing Persons and Agency/General Assists.

TRAFFIC CRASHES:
Includes crashes on public and private property.

PART I OFFENSES	2017	2018
Murder	1	0
Rape	37	41
Robbery	1	4
Aggravated Assault	57	43
Burglary	50	34
Larceny	209	183
Motor Vehicle Theft	17	7
Arson	2	1
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0
Totals:	374	313
PART II OFFENSES		
Non Aggravated Assault	278	294
Forgery/Counterfeit	16	6
Fraud	71	94
Embezzlement	8	6
Stolen Property	1	1
Damage to Property	124	94
Weapons	22	27
Prostitution	0	0
Sex Offenses	9	3
Narcotics Laws	101	58
Gambling	0	0
Family & Children	43	37
OWI(Alcohol or Drugs	105	74
Liquor Laws	44	23
Disorderly Conduct	84	61
Totals:	906	778



PATROL TEAMS

POLICE MOTORCYCLE TEAM

The Traverse City Police Department Motor Team consists of 6 officers who all have individually assigned Harley Davidson Road King motorcycles. Due to the hazards of this specialty, extensive amounts of training are required on an annual basis.

The team provided several escorts for different events throughout the year: The Blue Angels, Patriot Guard, Hometown Heroes, Thin Blue Line of Michigan, Law Enforcement Torch Run, Bayshore Marathon, and the Upnorth Pride Parade.



LGBTQ

The City of Traverse City and the Traverse City Police Department are committed to ensuring all members of the community feel comfortable contacting us for assistance and have access to all the services we provide. The Traverse City Police Department is proud to introduce our LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning) Liaison, Officer Taylor Comiskey. The LGBTQ Liaison is a proactive effort to build on and strengthen the relationship between the LGBTQ community and the Traverse City Police Department. Officer Comiskey will serve as the point of contact for both members of the community and officers who interact with the LGBTQ community. She will advocate creating mutual trust so the community members can gain increasing confidence in the Police through the provision of fair and professional policing services. The LGBTQ Liaison strives to enhance Traverse City's livability by implementing community policing projects and supporting a variety of diversity and equity initiatives.



K-9 PROGRAM

TOTAL CALLS: 69
K-9 APPLICATIONS: 0
K-9 ARRESTS: 4
TRACKS: 1
DEMONSTRATIONS: 32

DRAGO

Drago was born in Slovakia on October 14, 2014. He has been on duty since April 3, 2017, and serves our community as a dual purpose drug detection dog. Drago's handler is Officer Adam Verschaeve.



Drago - 2017
Handler: Adam J. Verschaeve

LUK

Luk was born in Poland on May 18, 2009. He has been on duty since February 27, 2011, and serves our community as a dual purpose explosives detection dog. Luk's handler is Officer Tim Smith.



Luk - 2011
Handler: Timothy R. Smith

HONOR GUARD



The Traverse City Police Honor Guard is comprised of one sergeant and three officers, all of which are highly respected for their precision and attention to detail. The team has become such a highly skilled team as each member has graduated from the nationally recognized DFL/Goshen Police Honor Guard training camp.

During the police memorial service in May, the team joined forces with the Grand Traverse County Honor Guard to present colors and a twenty-one gun salute for fallen officers. Many are unaware, this tradition dates back to the civil war era. During that time, a cease fire would be called so the dead could be removed. Once completed, three volleys would be fired indicating all dead have been cleared and properly cared for.

The Traverse City Police Honor Guard also participated in the civil war headstone dedication at the Oakwood Cemetery. During that time, the Grand Traverse County Honor Guard, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, Robert Finch Camp #14, and Traverse City Police Honor Guard presented colors and a twenty-one gun salute to honor the fallen soldiers of the civil war. The identities of several unknown soldiers were learned and they were presented with the proper headstone and military funeral as they would have received during the civil war.

Finally, the team showed its respects to late Elk Rapids Chief of Police & retired Grand Traverse County Captain, Tom Emerson, by participating in casket watch and presenting colors at his funeral.

COMMUNITY POLICING

NATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL

On October 10, 2018 the Traverse City Police, Safe Kids North Shore and Norte participated in the national Walk to School event. Traverse City Police assigned an officer to every grade school in the city to walk the kids from a selected location to their respective schools.

Along the way officers discussed and explained several pedestrian safety topics to the children.

Cross walk safety was extensively covered.



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS MENTORING PROGRAM

The Traverse City Police department has made a strong effort to work with the Biggs program by visiting the schools within the city of Traverse City to mentor children that are in the Biggs program. This program offers these children an opportunity to meet a police officer at their school and make the child a hero for the day. Big Brothers Big Sisters has been very supportive of this program. We have had several Biggs contacts at Central Grade school and Traverse Heights. Traverse City Police officer's attended 3 mentoring sessions in 2018, we hope to increase this number in 2019.



PARK AND WALKS

Park and walks are a great opportunity for our officers to introduce themselves to members of the community and a great time to do this is during events such as Friday Night Live.

Officers get out of their cars and walk around and have an open line of communication with citizens. This is an opportunity for our citizens to see us outside our cars and to communicate eye to eye. This is a time for citizens to see police officers as fellow human beings and to see we, too, have a vested interest in what happens in our neighborhoods. Our Sergeants oversee this detail which is used downtown particularly in the 100 block of south Union Street where several of our downtown drinking establishments are located.

Our presence has shown to dissuade criminal activity in that area of the City. We notice the positive impact it has made with regard to the volume of calls for service we receive at that location.

COMMUNITY POLICING

OPERATION CHILL

A free Slurpee is part of 7-11's "Operation Chill" program; "A tasty reward for staying cool – that's the Operation Chill program."

This 7Eleven community outreach program is designed to reduce crime and enhance relations between police and youth. It allows law enforcement officers to "ticket" kids they observe doing good deeds or exhibiting positive behavior. The ticket is a coupon good for a free 12-oz. Slurpee® at any participating store. In 2017 the Traverse City Police gave out 1000 Operation Chill coupons to kids in the community for many reasons, such as: wearing a bike helmet or using the cross walks. It is a great tool for introducing children to police officers and for those officers to get to know the kids. It is intended that the positive reinforcement carries over into the children's everyday lives.



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

We attend neighborhood meetings in Traverse Heights, Central, and Old Town. We do so to enhance our knowledge of the unique issues facing these neighborhoods. We intend for this relationship building to result in proactive ways to address issues impacting a particular neighborhood. It also allows for our officers to hear first-hand what is going on, what has been tried, and what still needs to be done. We are there to assist the members and offer insight from our perspective on what or how an issue may be resolved. Community Policing is successful when we work with our community members and help them address issues near and dear to them and their neighbors. Our goal aligns with theirs...how we work together to make and keep Traverse City a safe and beautiful place for all to live.

SAFE KIDS PROGRAM

The Traverse City Police are members of Safe Kids. They currently have two officers assigned to this community oriented program. The officers involved in the program are, Sergeant Pete Simerson and K9 Officer Adam Verschaeve. Officers work closely with Fire & Life Safety Educator Jen Ritter of Grand Traverse County.

In 2018, officers participated in 8 different car seat inspection stations. During a seat inspection officers meet families in the community and address child restraint concerns. All kids are fitted to their car seats. Officers also make sure the car seat is installed into their vehicle correctly. Common errors found by officers are, improperly secured seats/latching, shoulder straps adjustments, and unsecured items in vehicles. Safe Kids fitting stations focus on educating families on child passenger safety.

Officers were able to coordinate an event with the Grand Traverse Baby Pantry. Their members had several questions regarding safety matters and officers were able to provide immediate solutions to numerous families during this event. Officers and Safe Kids were able to host the event, install car seats, answer questions, and gave away free cars to families in need.

In 2019, Traverse City Police Department would like to add more officers to the Safe Kids team. This training would be paid in full by Safe Kids. Sgt. Simerson is currently working with Jen Ritter on this training to add more Safe Kid Technicians. This would allow for more families to be seen during car seat events. Currently, we are experiencing a shortage of technicians in our area and more techs are needed.

In conclusion, officers will continue their excellent work they provide to our community. We look forward to working with our partners in the future.

If you would like to set up an event or have any questions regarding our Safe Kids program, please reach out to Sergeant Pete Simerson, 231-342-5831.



COMMUNITY POLICING

SEASONAL BIKE OFFICERS

In 2017 Traverse City Police hired two, part-time seasonal officers to patrol the Tart Trail, beaches, and downtown area to deter unwanted activity in those areas of the City. The officers reported directly to the on-duty Sergeant and helped address several issues with intoxicated individuals on the beaches and trail system within the City. The department received several phone calls from citizens on how much safer they felt walking the trails knowing our officers were out and about on bikes in those hidden areas of the City.

Traverse City Police attended a bicycle safety program sponsored by Norte. Ty Schmitt, Norte's Director, has been instrumental in assisting us in several ways putting together a bicycle safety program. This program is specifically designed for children. There were several hundred children who participated in this program held last spring at the Civic Center grounds. The training included an obstacle course accompanied by bicycle safety. Our community continues to grow with more and more people enjoying the beautiful area we live in on bicycles. This is an important training for our youngsters.



On October 10, 2018 the Traverse City Police, Safe Kids North Shore and Norte participated in the national Walk to School event. Traverse City Police assigned an officer to every grade school in the city to walk the kids from a selected location to their respective schools.

Along the way officers discussed and explained several pedestrian safety topics to the children.

Cross walk safety was extensively covered.



SAFE KIDS NORTH SHORE

Safe Kids North Shore along with local community partners work to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the number one cause of death for children in the United States. Safe Kids North Shore is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing unintentional injury.

Safe Kids North Shore was founded in 2001 and is led by Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept.

For more information, visit safekids.org or www.gtinjuryprevention.com

NEW HIRES

OFFICER NOWLAND



Officer Nowland graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Criminal Justice and went on to the Police Academy at Northwestern Michigan College. Upon graduation he worked eight months on Mackinac Island. After his tenure on the island he was offered a position within our department, beginning in January of 2018.

OFFICER SNYDER



Officer Snyder is a native to Traverse City. In 2014 Officer Snyder started a pursuit for a criminal justice degree at Ferris State University. Officer Snyder's goal had always been to return back to Traverse City to serve as a Police Officer. In May of 2018, Officer Snyder graduated from Ferris State University's law enforcement academy. He immediately started with the department as a seasonal patrol Officer. In July of 2018 he was offered a full-time position with our department.

OFFICER CULVER



Officer Culver has family ties to the Traverse City area since he was a child. In 2018 he move his family from Las Vegas, Nevada to Traverse City. He graduated from the University of Nevada Las Vegas with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Counseling Education in Addiction Prevention. Officer Culver left Las Vegas with over 12 years of law enforcement experience and is honored to be serving the Traverse City community.

RETIREMENT

RESERVE UNIT

CAPTAIN RICH VANDERMEY

On February 23, 2018, the Chief of Police, department Command, and the Reserve Unit Commander honored Rich VanderMey and thanked him for his 33 years of dedicated service to the Traverse City PoliceDepartment's Reserve Unit. Captain VanderMey served as commander of the unit comprised of civilian volunteers interested in serving their community and giving back to our City.

Reserve Captain VanderMey honorably served the Reserve Unit as a Reserve Officer in 1985, Reserve Sergeant in 1991, Administrative Sergeant in 1996, and Reserve Captain in 2009 where he served until 2018.

We are fortunate both as a City and as a police department to have community members who support our mission and are willing to dedicate volunteer hours working alongside our sworn officers as they serve and protect the citizens of Traverse City. Thank you Reserve Captain VanderMey for a job well done.



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

THANK YOU

